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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00
CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 /061 R

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EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL(SUBS)
OSD/ISA:M.GEN. BOUMAN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113394

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:NATO LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM
-
REF: STATE 109560, DTG 290056Z APR 78

1. ON TOP OF NUMEROUS, VAGUE ITALIAN FOOTNOTES IN THE LTDP REPORT ITALY INTERPOSED ADDITIONAL FOOTNOTES AT THE MAY 2 MEETING. IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN WITHDRAWAL OF THESE UNNECESSARY RESERVATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD WEIGH IN STRONGLY WITH ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BY MAY 5, SO THAT CATALANO WILL HAVE INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO THE MAY 8 MEETING.

2. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE
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LTDP AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR HOLDING THE ALLIANCE TOGETHER AND FOR INCREASING COOPERATION BETWEEN ALLIES--THE LATTER SHOULD DIRECTLY BENEFIT ITALY BY MAKING AVAILABLE THE RESULTS OF COOPERATIVE WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND BY PROVIDING MORE ALLIANCE CAPABILITY FOR THE MONEY SPENT.

3. ITALY'S RESERVATIONS ON SPECIFIC DATES, AND DESIRE TO

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INSERT CAVEATS SUCH AS "AGREE IN PRINCIPLE", "FURTHER STUDY" AND "SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES" ARE UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF ITALY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE ITALIANS, THAT THESE KINDS OF RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARY. THE LTDP REPORT ONLY COMMITS NATIONS IN GENERAL TO PURSUE MAJOR MEASURES CITED. SUCH GENERAL COMMITMENTS ARE OF COURSE SUBJECT TO COST REFINEMENT, AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, AND WORKING OUT TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. THERE IS NO NEED TO ENTER FOOTNOTES TO THE EFFECT THAT FURTHER ANALYSIS IS NEEDED OR THAT ACTION WILL BE LIMITED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES. THOSE ARE REALITIES WHICH APPLY TO ALL COUNTRIES. WHAT THE LTDP REPORT CALLS FOR IS "BEST EFFORTS" TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS AS FAST AS WE ARE ABLE. WE HOPE FOR A MAJOR POLITICAL AGREEMENT AT THE SUMMIT TO PURSUE THESE ESSENTIAL MILITARY PROGRAMS OVER THE LONG TERM AND TO COORDINATE OUR NATIONAL EFFORTS AS WE DO SO. THE ITALIAN FOOTNOTES WOULD WEAKEN THESE HOPED-FOR ALLIANCE AGREEMENTS.

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME SPECIFIC ITALIAN RESERVATIONS THAT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED:

A. NATO ALERT SYSTEM - NOT YET READY TO AGREE TO INVITE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW LEGAL

AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMPEDIMENTS WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THAT COMMITTED FORCES CAN BE PLACED UNDER NATO COMMAND IN A PERIOD OF CRISIS WITH THE MAXIMUM RAPIDITY AND SYNCHRONIZATION.

OUR COMMENT: ALL THAT IS ASKED FOR IS A REVIEW -- CAN WE DO LESS IN THE LIGHT OF THE SHORT WARNING THREAT CAPABILITY THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE DEVELOPED?

B. PROPOSED RECATEGORIZATION OF UNITS - STILL CONSIDERING RECATEGORIZING 8 AIR SQUADRONS TO AT LEAST "EARMARKED" AND PREFERABLY "ASSIGNED", AND 4 AIR SQUADRONS TO AT LEAST "OTHER FORCES" AND PREFERABLY "EARMARKED".

OUR COMMENT: ALL COUNTRIES ARE RECATEGORIZING UNITS TO IMPROVE AVAILABILITY AND ALLIANCE PLANNING. THESE ARE FORCES THAT ALREADY EXIST - NOT NEW FORCES; THEREFORE, IT COSTS NOTHING.

C. SEALIFT AND AIRLIFT - RESERVATION ON MID-1979 TARGET DATE FOR COMMITMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPS AND

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CARGO AIRCRAFT FOR REINFORCEMENT PURPOSES WHEN REQUIRED.

OUR COMMENT: THE US IS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO INCREASE THE ABILITY TO REINFORCE EUROPE, BUT CONGRESS WILL NOT SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM IF EUROPE IS NOT WILLING TO EVEN PROVIDE EXISTING SHIPS IN THE EVENT OF CRISIS OR CONFLICT. CHRISTOPHER

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